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SUBJECT Organization of 68th Border Detachment,
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SOURCE

1. Depending upon the importance of the border section with which they were entrusted, border detachments (otryad) stationed along Soviet frontiers were of divisional, brigade, or regimental rank (establishing thereby the prerogatives and responsibilities of commanding officers). The T/O envisaged a brigadier general or a colonel as CO of divisional or brigade rank detachments. A colonel or lieutenant colonel would be CO of a regimental rank detachment. Except for this slight difference, all border detachments in the USSR had practically the same, standard organization. Therefore, the 68th Border Detachment, which I shall describe, may be considered as standard although it was of divisional rank. Border detachments in the USSR were directly subordinate to border districts, which were the highest border guard units. Depending on local conditions a border district had from four to nine detachments; each detachment had from four to seven komendatury subordinate to it (one detachment somewhere in the Far East had nine komendatury).
2. The 68th Border Detachment was stationed in Takhta-Bazar /N 35-57, E 62-50/ and was subordinate to the Turkmenian Border District in Ashkhabad /N 37-57, E 58-23/. Four komendatury were subordinate to the 68th Border Detachment:
 - a. First Komendatura in Ak-rabat
 - b. Second Komendatura in Kushka
 - c. Third Komendatura in Senn-Ali
 - d. Fourth Komendatura located somewhere in the sandy desert east of Takhta-Bazar.

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In addition to the four komendatury, the 68th Border Detachment had one Maneuver Group (manevrennaya gruppa) and one Cavalry Remount Squadron (remontnyy kavaleriyskiy eskadron).

3. Each komendatura of the 68th Border Detachment had several line companies (lineynaya zastava), as follows:

- a. First Komendatura in Ak-rabat: five line companies
- b. Second Komendatura in Kushka: five line companies
- c. Third Komendatura in Senn-Ali: seven line companies
- d. Fourth Komendatura, east of Takhta-Bazar: four line companies

In addition to the above listed line companies each komendatura had one reserve company (rezervnaya zastava) and one service and supply company (zastava boyevogo obezpecheniya).

4. The organization of Headquarters, 68th Border Detachment, was very similar to Border District Headquarters, although, of course, on a smaller scale. The CO of the 68th Border Detachment was Col. LUK'YANOV (there was no general serving as CO in any detachment as far as I know), who had the following headquarters elements:

- a. Deputy for Political Matters (zamestitel' po politicheskoy chast'i) was Lt. Col. DUBINA, who had subordinate officers with specific assignments:

- (1) Marx-Lenin Indoctrination Program (Maj. ZOLOTENKOV)
- (2) Agitation and Propaganda (Maj. NEDIN)
- (3) Culture and Enlightenment
- (4) Secretary of the Detachment's Party Commission (Maj. TYUTNEV)
- (5) Secretary of the Party Bureau (Maj. MEDVEDEV); and Secretary of the Komsomol Bureau (Sergeant (NU))
- (6) Komsomol Officer

- b. Chief of Staff was Lt. Col. KOVALEV, who supervised the following departments:

- (1) First or Intelligence Department (pervyy ili razvedyvatel'nyy otdel), headed by Lt. Col. STRIZHENKOV; 10 to 12 officers and three NCO's. The Department had three Sections: Foreign Territory; Border Zone; and Investigation.
- (2) Second or Border Security Department (vtoroy otdel ili sluzhba voysk), headed by Maj. Pavel Ivanovich BUSOVIKOV, who had under him five officers and two NCO's. The Section had a Chief of Engineering Service and an Engineer Platoon of about 15 men. The canine center for the breeding and training of watch dogs was subordinate to this Section.
- (3) Third or Communications Section (otdeleniye svyazi), headed by Capt. MYASOUTOV. One signal company with radio, telegraph-telephone, wire, and electrical detection devices maintenance platoons, and a message center, was subordinate to this Section.

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- (4) Fourth or Personnel Section (otdeleniye lichnogo sostava) for officers and enlisted men, headed by Capt. BUTKOV; two officers and three NCO's. The T/O called for four officers in this Section.
 - (5) Fifth or Combat Readiness Section (otdeleniye boyevoy podgotovki), with five officers and four NCO's. The following subsections were subordinate to the Combat Readiness Section: CW defense; physical training; combat firing.
 - (6) Cipher Section, with two officers.
 - c. Head of Rear Services (zamestitel' nachal'nika otryada po snabzheniyu ili nachal'nik sluzhby tyila), headed by Lt. Col. ZAHKAROV; 12 officers and seven to nine NCO's. The following sections were subordinate to the Head of Rear Services:
 - (1) Food and Forage Section (PFS)
 - (2) Clothing and Train Equipment Section (OVS) with tailor and shoe-repair shops
 - (3) Artillery Section (ATS)
 - (4) Motor Pool (ABT), composed of approximately 10 GAZ-67, 20 to 25 GAZ-151, some other types of trucks, and one bus.
 - (5) Barracks and Furniture Section (KECh)
 - d. Medical Section, headed by Lt. Col. M C LEBEDEV. A dispensary (capacity up to 100 beds) was attached to this Section. Five officers who were medical doctors, three medical assistants (fel'dsher), and four trained female nurses worked in the dispensary and for the Detachment's Medical Section.
 - e. Veterinary Section, headed by Lt. Col. V C GUSEV; with one veterinary doctor and one assistant. The veterinary dispensary attached to this Section could take care of five to seven horses.
 - f. Finance Section, two officers and two NCO's.
 - g. Detachment Control and Check Point: the 68th Border Detachment had only one such point which was located south of Kushka in the settlement of Poltavskiy. The CO of this Control and Check Point was Maj. Grigoriy ZHOLTIKOV. Three officers and 15 to 18 EM were assigned to this point.
 - h. Okhrana Detachment (OKR) of the MGB, attached to but not subordinate to the 68th Border Detachment. Lt. Col. ZUBKOV was their CO. Two more officers were on duty with the OKR. A considerable reduction in OKR personnel serving with Border Detachments took place in 1952 when their T/O was reduced from six to seven officers to two to three officers. /See Annex A: T/O of Border Det. Hq.7
5. Detailed organization of a border komendatura will be the subject of a separate report.
6. The Maneuver Group attached to the Border Detachment had no standard permanent T/O & E but was organized according to local conditions and requirements. Usually it consisted of:
- a. Headquarters platoon
 - b. Two to three rifle platoons; one platoon was normally armed with SMG's and the others with carbines.
 - c. Heavy Machine Gun Platoon with two Maxim machine guns.

Transportation Platoon
 GAZ-151, for transportation of the Maneuver Group.

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- d. Transportation Platoon equipped with several trucks, normally GAZ-151, for transportation of the Maneuver Group.
- e. Supply Platoon (khozyaystvenny vzvod)
- f. Army Band (muzykal'nyy vzvod)

The total strength of the Maneuver Group was from 100 to 150 men.

- 7. Depending on the number of subordinate komendatury the strength of a border detachment varied from 2,000 to 3,000 men.
- 8. I have indicated OB of the 68th Detachment /See Annex B/

Annexes:

- A. T/O of Border Detachment Headquarters, based on 68th Border Detachment of the Turkmenian Border District
- B. Border Sector of the 68th Border Detachment

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Annex A: T/O OF BORDER DETACHMENT HEADQUARTERS
Based on
68th Border Detachment of the Turkmenian Border District

<u>Position</u>	<u>Military Rank</u>	<u>Number of Men</u>
1. Commanding Officer	Gen. or Col.	1
2. Deputy Commanding Officer	Col. or Lt. Col.	1
3. Deputy Commanding Officer for Rear Services	Lt. Col. or Maj.	1
4. Head of Political Department	Col. or Lt. Col.	1
5. Chief of Staff	Col. or Lt. Col.	1
6. Deputy Chief of Staff for Mobilization	Col. or Lt. Col.	<u>1</u>
Total		6
1. Chief of First Department	Lt. Col. or Maj.	1
2. Chief of First, Second, and Third Sections	Maj. or Capt.	3
3. Senior Operations Officer	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	9
4. Clerk Typist (WAC)	Sgt.	1
5. Interpreter	Sgt.	<u>2</u>
Total		16
1. Chief of Second Department	Col. or Maj.	1
2. Deputy Chief	Maj. or Capt.	1
3. Officers on Duty	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	3
4. Chief of Dog Section	Maj. or Capt.	1
5. Chief, Engineer Service	Maj. or Capt.	1
6. Clerk Typist (WAC)	Sgt.	1
7. Clerk Draftsman	Sgt.	<u>1</u>
Total		9
1. Chief of Third Section	Maj. or Capt.	1
2. Commanding Officer, Signal Co.	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1
3. Platoon Commander, Signal Co.	Lt.	<u>3</u>
Total		5
1. Head of Fourth Section	Maj. or Capt.	1
2. Assistant	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1-2
3. Chief of Administration	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1
4. Clerk Typist (WAC)	Sgt.	<u>2-3</u>
Total		5-7
1. Head of Fifth Section	Lt. Col. or Maj.	1
2. Deputy Chief	Maj. or Capt.	1
3. Head of Combat Firing Training	Maj. or Capt.	1
4. Head of Physical Training	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1
5. Head of CW Defense	Maj. or Capt.	1-2
6. Clerk Typist (WAC)	Sgt.	1
7. CW Defense Instructor	Sgt.	<u>1-2</u>
Total		7-9
1. Chief of Cipher Section	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1
2. Code Officer	Sr. Lt. or Lt.	<u>1-2</u>
Total		2-3

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Annex A (Cont'd)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Military Rank</u>	<u>Number of Men</u>
1. Chief of Finance Section	Maj. or Capt.	1
2. Cashier	Sr. Lt. or Lt.	1
3. Clerk	Sgt.	1
Total		3
1. Head of Medical Service	Lt. Col. or Maj.	1
2. Deputy Head of Medical Service	Lt. Col. or Maj.	1
3. Medical Doctor	Lt. Col. or Maj.	3-5
4. Medical Assistant	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	4-6
5. Medical Aide	Sgt., Cpl. or Pvt.	2-3
Total		11-16
1. Head of Veterinary Service	Lt. Col. or Maj.	1
2. Veterinary Doctor	Lt. Col. or Maj.	1-2
3. Veterinary Assistant	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1-2
Total		3-5
<u>Rear Services</u>		
1. Chief, Food and Forage Section	Maj. or Capt.	1
2. Officers on Duty	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1-2
3. Clerk Typist (WAC)	Sgt.	1
4. Chief, Clothing and Train Equipment Section	Maj. or Capt.	1
5. Officers on Duty	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1-2
6. Clerk Typist (WAC)	Sgt.	1
7. Chief, Barracks and Furniture Section	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1
8. Clerk	Sgt.	1
9. Chief, Artillery Section	Maj. or Capt.	1
10. Armory Technician	Sr. Lt. or Lt.	1
11. Armory Foreman	Sgt.	2-3
12. Clerk	Sgt.	1
13. Chief, Motor Pool	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1
14. Automotive Technician	Sr. Lt. or Lt.	1
15. Automotive Mechanic	Sgt.	1-2
16. Clerk Typist (WAC)	Sgt.	1
Total		17-21
<u>Political Department</u>		
1. Secretary of Party Commission	Lt. Col. or Maj.	1
2. Secretary of Party Bureau	Maj. or Capt.	1
3. Komsomol Officer	Sr. Lt. or Lt.	1
4. Chief of First, Second, and Third Sections (Marx-Lenin Indoctrination Program; Agitation and Propaganda; Culture and Enlightenment.)	Maj. or Capt.	3
5. Instructor - Propagandist	Maj. or Capt.	5
6. Club Officer	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1
7. Librarian	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	1
8. Clerk Typist (WAC)	Sgt.	1
Total		14

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Annex A (Cont'd)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Military Rank</u>	<u>Number of Men</u>
<u>Counter Intelligence - OKR</u> (Attached to but not subordinate to CO of the Border Detachment)		
1. Chief OKR	Lt. Col. or Maj.	1
2. Operation Officer	Capt. or Sr. Lt.	<u>1-2</u>
Total		2-3

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